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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Attorney Docket No.: 1088.154US02

Thiede

Confirmation No.: 3554

Application No.:

10/773,571

Filed:

February 6, 2004

Group Art Unit: 3637

For:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This information is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

Application No. 10/773,571

This application was filed after June 30, 2003; therefore, copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. published applications are not included.

Respectfully submitted,

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Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449/PTO Application Number 10/773,571 February 6, 2004 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Filing Date TATEMENT BY APPLICANT First Named Inventor Thiede (Use as many sheets as necessary) Art Unit 3637 **Examiner Name** Attorney Docket Number 1088.154US02 1 of 4 Sheet U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS **Publication Date** Name of Patentee or Applicant **EXAMINER** Cite INITIAL* No.1 Document Number MM-DD-YYYY of Cited Document Number-Kind Code^{2 (if known)} US-6,581,339 06/24/2003 Thiede 08/22/2000 US-6,106,186 Taipale et al. 01/18/2000 Rogers et al. US-6,014,936 12/28/1999 Quam et al. US-6,006,680 Taipale et al. US-5,848,501 12/15/1998 05/05/1998 Nygren et al. US-5,746,561 07/15/1997 Riehm US-5,647,682 Daugherty et al. US-5,647,650 07/15/1997 Truelove et al. US-5,425,214 06/20/1995 US-5,392,718 02/28/1995 Stevens 09/27/1994 Andert et al. US-5,349,789 07/05/1994 Luedke et al. US-5,325,640 US-5,301,480 04/12/1994 Oyama et al. 12/14/1993 Warkus et al. US-5,269,619 Jines US-5,205,087 04/27/1993 01/12/1993 Erel US-5,177,913 10/27/1992 Jines US-5,157,890 US-5,157,109 10/06/1992 **Boers** Leslie et al. US-5,117,596 06/02/1992 FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Foreign Patent Document **Publication Date EXAMINER** Cite T⁶ MM-DD-YYYY Name of Patentee or Applicant INITIAL* No.1 of Cited Document Country Code³ Number⁴Kind Code⁵ (if known) FR 2418319 09/21/1979 10/04/1972 GB 1291709 CA 753000 02/21/1967

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449/PTO 10/773,571 Application Number INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Filing Date February 6,2 004 STATEMENT BY APPLICANT First Named Inventor Thiede (Use as many sheets as necessary) Art Unit 3637 Examiner Name 1088.154US02 Attorney Docket Number 2 4 of Sheet U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Name of Patentee or Applicant **EXAMINER** Cite **Publication Date** INITIAL* No.1 Document Number MM-DD-YYYY of Cited Document Number-Kind Code^{2 (if known)} 09/24/1991 US-5,050,353 Rogers et al. US-5,048,995 09/17/1991 Beaulieu Wilson et al. US-5,022,200 06/11/1991 US-4,988,131 01/29/1991 Wilson et al. US-4,949,649 08/21/1990 Terres et al. Krumholz et al. US-4,942,708 07/24/1990 07/17/1990 US-4,941,763 Euteneuer US-4,934,113 06/19/1990 Hall et al. US-4,930,277 06/05/1990 Krumholz et al. US-4,922,670 05/08/1990 Naka et al. 04/24/1990 US-4,919,230 Langer et al. US-4,917,217 04/17/1990 Rogers et al. 04/03/1990 Sullivan US-4,912,887 Zinniel et al. US-4,901,490 02/20/1990 US-D304,499 11/07/1989 Rogers et al. 07/11/1989 Rogers et al. US-4,845,915 US-4,843,792 07/04/1989 Rogers et al. US-4,825,976 Wyse 05/02/1989 US-4,811,530 03/14/1989 Eyerly FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Foreign Patent Document **EXAMINER** Cite **Publication Date** T⁶ INITIAL No.1 MM-DD-YYYY Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document Country Code³ Number⁴Kind Code⁵ (if known) **EXAMINER** DATE SIGNATURE CONSIDERED

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Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449/PTO **Application Number** 10/773,571 February 6, 2004 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Filing Date STATEMENT BY APPLICANT First Named Inventor Thiede (Use as many sheets as necessary) Art Unit 3637 Examiner Name Attorney Docket Number 1088.154US02 4 4 of Sheet U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS **Publication Date** Name of Patentee or Applicant **EXAMINER** Cite INITIAL' No.1 Document Number MM-DD-YYYY of Cited Document Number-Kind Code^{2 (if known)} US-4,054,096 10/18/1977 Wilson et al. 09/27/1977 Parks et al. US-4,050,257 08/30/1977 Layher US-4,044,523 Wilson et al. US-4,026,221 05/31/1977 Young 03/01/1977 US-4,009,550 07/27/1976 Zetlin US-3,971,181 06/22/1976 Jenne et al. US-3,964,402 Denton US-3,606,704 09/21/1971 08/17/1971 Stone US-3,599,382 Tate 10/07/1969 US-3,470,663 08/19/1969 Cheslock US-3,462,110 Haroldson US-3,425,179 02/04/1969 09/10/1968 Scaggs et al. US-3,400,502 07/01/1966 Wenger US-3,258,884 Liskey, Jr. 04/01/1965 US-3,180,460 Spiselman et al. 11/01/1964 US-3,157,254 09/01/1964 Liskey, Jr. US-3,150,748 08/01/1963 Spiselman US-3,100,624 US-3,094,848 06/01/1963 Albrecht Spiselman US-3,084,911 04/01/1963 Olsen 04/01/1961 US-2,981,365 FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS **Publication Date** Foreign Patent Document **EXAMINER** Cite Т6 Name of Patentee or Applicant MM-DD-YYYY INITIAL' No.1 of Cited Document Country Code³ Number⁴Kind Code⁵ (if known) **EXAMINER** DATE **SIGNATURE** CONSIDERED

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